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HOW NESHOBE CAME UP
INTO THE
GREEN MOUNTAINS

ALSO THE DISCOVERY
OF LAKE BOMBAZON BY
SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

COMPILED BY JOHN MACNAB CURRIER, M. D.

NEWPORT, VERMONT

1914.



BIRTH PLACE OF CAPT. JOSIAH POWERS,
AND SITE OF THE GARRISON HOUSE

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PART ONE



SPECTACLE POND, LONG POND AND NAGOG POND

HOW NESHOBÉ CAME UP INTO THE GREEN MOUNTAINS.

[Read before the Ladies' Reading Circle of Newport, Vt.,
October 21, 1914, by Mrs. Sarah Foster, Sec.-Treas.]

CHAPTER I

NESHOBÉ—ITS ORIGIN AND MEANING.

In Daniel P. Thompson's novel, *The Green Mountain Boys*, appears an Indian scout by the name of Neshobee. Inasmuch as many of the characters in that unique production were real personages bearing their own family names one would naturally wonder if this was a real red-skin from the forests of New England. We shall soon learn upon investigation that the name was a genuine Indian word, but the character was fictitious. In tracing this

word to its true origin, and its apparance among the Green Mountains we find that it arrived about twenty-three years before the word *Vermont* was coined and applied to this northern New England wilderness, when this whole territory was known only as the New Hampshire Grants. The word is a place name of Indian origin. It means double water, or a locality where there are two ponds, or bodies of water, spectacle shape.*

This name was originally applied to the locality in or near Littleton Mass., where the Rev. John Eliot established his sixth praying band of Indians. The word was spelled Nashobah but it has been variously spelled: Nashabah, Nashop, Nashope, and Neshobe. The town was situated mostly in Littleton.

*Proceedings of the Littleton, (Mass.) Historical Society
1894-1895, pages 117-121.

CHAPTER II

HOW THE WORD CAME TO THE GREEN
MOUNTAINS.

This word was brought up into the Green Mountains by one Capt. Josiah Powers, a native of Nashobah, and a land speculator of the New Hampshire Grants. On Oct. 20, 1761 the town of Brandon was chartered to Capt. Josiah Powers, then a resident of Greenwich, Mass., and sixty-five others, by Benning Wentworth, governor of New Hampshire, by the name of Neshobe. Capt. Powers came to the new town to reside in 1774. He commenced early to buy up the shares of the original proprietors of the town, and soon became the largest share holder of the new town of Neshobe. He and his Brother Dr. Benjamin Powers were the only original proprietors who settled in the town. New settlers came in, purchased land, cleared off the trees, built buildings, and soon there was a thriving settlement.

The name of Neshobe thus became a fixture in Rutland county in a few years. The small stream of water that flows through the town was called Neshobe river, and it still bears that name (1914).

Mr. Thompson when he wrote the *Green Mountain Boys*, selected Neshobee for the name of his Indian scout, and probably did not know the origin or meaning of the word himself at the time, at last no information was given of it in his works.

On July 4, 1881 the Rutland county historical society conferred the name of Neshobe on the island in Lake Bombazon in Castleton, in memory of the name of the Indian scout in the *Green Mountain Boys*. The society soon afterwards adopted a coat-of-arms for the island, a cut of which is inserted in this work, and a full description of it was given in the second volume of the proceedings of that society.

CHAPTER III

GENEALOGY OF CAPT. JOSIAH POWERS.—AN
ANCIENT FAMILY, REACHING BACK TO
THE ORIGIN OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Capt. Josiah Powers was born in the Garrison house, in Nashobah, now in the town of Littleton, Mass., and "was drowned in attempting to ford a stream on horse back, which was swollen by the flood, while on his return from Windsor, where he had



Coat-of-Arms of Neshobe Island.

been to attend the Legislature, in October 1778." Capt. Powers had ten children. He was a son of Josiah Powers, a grandson of Walter Powers, and a great grandson of Walter Powers, all of Littleton, or Concord, Mass., the original emigrant from the county of Waterford, Ireland, about 1654. Capt. Powers was in the Revolutionary war, and was elected a member of the constitutional convention in 1778. Dr. Benjamin Powers was his brother, but was never married; he died previous to 1783.

It is very evident that there were several distinct families by the name of Powers who emigrated to America from both England and Ireland, from a period commencing soon after the landing of the Pilgrims even to the present time who were only remotely connected with the Neshobe line, and not descendants of Walter. But the family that we are concerned with was that of Walter Powers, who was born 1639, died Feb. 22, 1708, married March 11, 1661, Trial, daughter of Dea. Ralph and Thankes Shepard, born Feb. 10, 1641.

The following paragraph is copied from the Powers genealogy: "At the time of their marriage, Walter and his wife settled on a tract of land in or near Concord, which

took the name of Concord Village, now in the town of Littleton, and adjoining the Indian town of Nashobe, which Deacon Ralph Shepard bought of Lieut. Joseph Wheeler; and built his house on the north side of Quagany Hill, about half a mile from the Garrison house, and less distant than that from Nagog pond."

Under date of May 14, 1654, the General Court of Massachusetts granted the Nashobah Plantation to "Mr. Jno. Elliott on behalf of seuerall Indians," "to make a town in yt place," [Nashobah]. On Nov. 2, 1714, the town of Nashoba, 4 miles square, was incorporated by the General Court. On Dec. 3, 1715 the name of Nashobah was changed to Littleton.

On May 9, 1694, Walter Powers of Concord, bought "one Quarter part of an Indian Plantation known by ye name of Nashoby," of Weegrammominet alias Thomas Waban of Natick.

There have been many prominent members of this Neshobe Line of the Powers family, some of which we will mention: Dr. Thomas E. Powers, an efficient temperance advocate in Vermont, and superintendent of the rebuilding of the State House in 1858; Hiram Powers the sculptor, of world wide

fame; Hon. H. Henry Powers, Judge of the supreme court of Vermont from December 1874 until December 1890, and congressman from 1890 to 1900; Hon. George M. Powers, appointed judge of the supreme court of Vermont in June 1904, and appointed chief justice of the same October 1, 1913; and Hon. Samuel T. Powers, representative to Congress (1914) from Massachusetts.

The name of Powers was derived from the Norman word: le Poer, variously spelled: le Puher, le Poher, le Poer.

King Henry II, (1154-1189), and the Norman Family, le Poer (Poer) were very firm friends. One branch of le Poer family settled in England, and from time to time extensive lands were granted to this family by the reigning kings. But the family of le Poer whom we are the most interested in was that of Robert le Puher (le Poer) in 1177 to whom King Henry II, granted the City of Waterford, Ireland, with all the circumjacent province, as a fair reward for his services to the King as marshal. The government of this City and Province remained in the Powers family till 1704, when the male line became extinct. The inheritance fell to Catherine Poer, who married

Sir Marcus Beresford, in which name the charge now remains, though the Powers blood still flows in their veins.

From this Waterford line of Powers (le Poer) came Walter Powers who settled in Littleton, Mass. in 1661, though his parentage is still undetermined. This Walter Powers and his descendants constitute the Nashobah, or Neshobe line of Powers.

CHAPTER IV

NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANTS.—NEW CONNECTICUT.—VERMONT.—NESHOBIE CHANGED TO BRANDON.

On the 15th day of January 1777 the general convention was held at the Court house in Westminster and passed the following vote: "That we do hereby Proclaim and Publickly declare that the District or Territory comprehending and Usually Known by the name and description of the N. Hampshire grants of Right ought to be and are hereby declared forever hereafter to be considered as a Seperate Free and Independant Jurisdiction or State by the name and to be forever hereafter called and



TRADITIONAL SITE OF THE INDIAN FORT AND WELL
NEAR FORT POND IN NASHOBAH PLANTATION.

Known and distinguished by the name of New Connecticut *alias* Vermont."

On June 4, 1774 the General convention that was held at Windsor, had become aware that there was another district of land called New Connecticut they therefore "resolved that hereafter the district known as the New Hampshire Grants, and by this convention on the 15th of January 1777 was named New Connecticut, now therefore *Resolved* that this district shall hereafter be called and known by the name of Vermont."

On the 20th day of October, 1784, the name of the town of Neshobe was changed to Brandon by an act of the legislature.

PART TWO



LAKE BOMBAZON, NESHOBIE ISLAND, AND BIRCH POINT,
IN CASTLETON, VERMONT.

THE DISCOVERY OF LAKE BOMBAZON BY SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN

[Read before the Ladies Reading Circle of Newport, Vermont,
October 21, 1914 By Mrs. Sarah Foster, Secretary—Treasurer.]

CHAPTER I

LAKE BOMBAZON—THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE NAME—ITS CHANGE TO BOMOZEEN.

Lake Bombazon in Castleton was discovered in 1609 by Samuel de Champlain. When his Expedition was at the South End of the lake that bears his own name he sent an exploring party to the country to the East. When they reached the Southwestern shore of the Castleton lake their eyes beheld all at once the smooth surface of its quiet waters, which reflected the foliage of the surrounding shores, to such a degree that it resembled the appearance of the new cloth that they all, by common consent called: *Bombazon*.*

*In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1558-1603, there was a new kind of cloth made in Norwich, England, of silk warp and worsted weft, which came into use quite rapidly and extensively, called Bombazon, or Bombazine. The French spelled it Bombazin and pronounced it Bombazon. The word is derived from the latin word Bombycinus, for silk.

Over one hundred years this locality was little visited by the white man, still the name Bombazon lingered around the verdant shores of the lake.

We find that Wm. Blodgett published a map of that section of Vermont in 1789, on which appears in Castleton, LAKE BOMBAZON.

On a map of Vermont by D. F. Scottmann, published by Carl Ernest Bohn in 1796 appears BOMBAZON SEA.

On a map of Me., N. H., and Vt., that refers to the census of 1810 appears the name, L. Bombazine.

In Zodock Thompson's Vermont gazetteer, edition of 1853, the name of the lake is called Bombazine.

Inasmuch as the new cloth in Queen Elizabeth's time was very popular and in extensive use, not only in England but in France at the time when Champlain discovered the lake it would be very natural to apply the name to the lake whose waters so much resembled the cloth. Besides there are several traditions and legends that linger around that beautiful lake that go far to confirm the statement that the Champlain origin of the name BOMBAZON is the true one. Thirty years ago there

was a tradition in Castleton that Champlain's exploring party followed up the north side of the Castleton river to the outlet of Lake Bombazon thence up the west side of the outlet to the south westerly shore of the lake.

About 1860 the name of the lake underwent a sudden change, largely through the influence of one man, for many years previously it had been called by Bombazine, an English word for the original French word Bombazon. Bombazine fell into disuse and Bomoseen came into constant use. Major R. M. Copeland took a fancy to the lake and settled on the west side of it, where he built a fine cottage on one of the wooded elevations just over across a ravine through which he had to pass on leaving the main road to reach his residence. He admired the lake and every spot in Castleton, and never ceased to do the place an honor. The name of the lake did not suit him, he *assumed* that the name was intended to mean Bomoseen, claiming that the Indian sachem, Bomozeen of Norridgewock, Maine, was intended to have been the real name of the lake in Castleton, and that this sachem used to visit it frequently and bestowed his own name upon it. I will

quote Hon. Henry L. Clark's letter of June 22nd 1914, in full. It throws much light on this point, besides containing much other valuable historical matter in Castleton.

"Your note of Saturday about Copeland is received. His name was Robert Morris Copeland. I cannot give the exact date of his coming to West Castleton to reside. It was between 1859 and 1860."

"He and his wife commenced purchasing lands in town in 1853, and on April 1st. of that year in deed from M. W. Bliss he is described as of Roxbury, Mass. In a deed dated Oct. 9th. 1858 he is described as of Waltham, Mass. and on May 6th. 1859 he is described as of Belmont, Mass. The next deed in order of date was to his wife, Josephine G. Copeland and is dated June 1st. 1860 and in that she is described as of Castleton, Vermont."

"You are mistaken in thinking he had anything to do with the Bomoseen House. That was erected by William N. Batchelder. The latter the late Egbert J. Armstrong bought the Old Mansion House of Col. F. Parker and wife, March 20th. 1868 and divided the lot June 23rd. 1868 Armstrong taking the westerly portion and

Batchelder the easterly part, and the Mansion House was demolished and the erection of the Armstrong store and the Bomoseen House was commenced. I came here July 20th. 1868 and the building was then started and was completed that season."

"Concerning Mr. Copeland, I have a pamphlet published in 1864 in which the Major recounts his troubles and tribulations with President Lincoln and the Secretary of War etc. and I am sending you the same under a separate cover."

When I resided in Castleton, 1876-1887, I gathered up much historical matter pertaining to that town. I then learned that it was largely through the influence of Major Copeland that the new three-story, brick hotel, being erected in 1860, was named Bomoseen House, and by this means the name was familiarized and fastened upon the lake. No one then cared what the lake was called, and no one cared to know its history. Indeeds of land adjoining the lake it was called by several names, such as, the pond, Castleton pond, and, the great pond.

There is nothing in print to show that Bomazeen of Norigwok was ever in Castleton. Not a tree was cut in that town for

thirty-seven years after Bomozeen's death in 1724. He was shot by Captain Moulton's party as he was making his escape through the river at Taconnet in Maine. It may safely be said that Bomozeen's name was never given to the lake in Castleton, though it resembles Bombazine somewhat. He never was there to apply it himself, and the savage creature never had friends enough who would want to apply it to anything so picturesque as Lake Bombazon. The application of the name Bombazeen was wholly founded upon assumption, simply from its resemblance to the Champlain term BOMBAZON.

CHAPTER II

MAJOR COPELAND'S NATIVITY.—MILITARY OFFICES HE HELD IN THE ARMY.—TROUBLES HE HAD WITH HIGHER OFFICERS.—HIS DISMISSAL FROM THE ARMY.—INTERVIEWS WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN.—QUOTATIONS FROM LINCOLN'S REPLIES TO HIM.

Major Copeland seems to have been a man somewhat visionary and flighty in his methods and works, and had but little prac-

tical ability, and did not like to devote much time in historical research. He used assumptions in place of facts, and was hasty in his conclusions. Major R. Morris Copeland was the son of Hon. B. F. Copeland of Roxbury, Mass. He went into the war of the Rebellion as a quarter master of the 2nd. Mass. Regiment. Later he was promoted and served on the staff of General Banks. When in the army he was somewhat erratic and meddlesome, and got into trouble with higher officers. The following charges were preferred against him, and he was peremptorily dismissed from the service:

War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, Aug. 6, 1863.

"Major R. Morris Copeland, assistant Adjutant-General, United States Vols. having violated an important trust committed to him while serving on the staff of the general commanding the Department of the Shenandoah, is, by direction of the President, dismissed the service of the United States, to take effect Aug. 1, 1862.

By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General."

He was dissatisfied with this hasty dismissal and succeeded in getting an interview

with the President about his case. Mr. Lincoln came to the point at once with the following reply:

"Well, Sir, I know something about your case, and I'll tell you what I know. You're that man who went to Boston about the time Jackson broke through at Front Royal, and wrote letters and editorials abusing the Administration, and made speeches, and did all that you could to make a fuss." A little later in the interview he got the following sentiment or opinion from the president:

"But I do know that you sent a most improper and malicious telegram, in cipher, to a Boston editor, which no officer had a right to do, saying I was scared, McClellan was to be captured, and we were all going to ruin. * * * * I could see plainly enough that you belonged to that class of men who are trying to make all the mischief for the Government that they can. Fact is, I believe you want to help run this Government; and, because you don't get as much notice as you think you deserve, you are trying to make trouble." Lastly the following remark from Mr. Lincoln closed the interview:

"The fact is, I am inclined to believe that you are a mischief-making fellow, and good

for but little as an officer, and capable of doing a great deal of harm; and therefor, the sooner you are out of the service, the better."

In 1864 Major Copeland published a pamphlet to vindicate his character, and claimed that his dismissal did him an injustice. From that work I have quoted extracts from Mr. Lincoln's remarks to show the character of the man who so successfully put the true history of BOMBAZON in the shade, for so many years, by substituting the name of a brutal savage because his name resembled the true name bestowed by the discoverer of the lake. It is unfortunate that the early names of places should be supplanted by new and meaningless ones. Particularly has New-England suffered by discarding the old Indian place-names, they all had a meaning. Equally unfortunate is it to manufacture names for places, having no significance whatever just because a name is wanted that would sound Indian. Such a name a few years ago was invented for a dirty mud hole, or frog swamp in the town of Woodstock, Vt. A man built a dam across a little rill, flowed a swamp and converted it into a shallow pond, and gave it the name, Lacota, for no other

reason, than because it rhymed with Dacotah. It has no significance whatever, it was only an explosion of the voice.

PART THREE



SCREW-DRIVER TO A FLINT-LOCK GUN

DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATIONS;
AND MANY HISTORICAL
FACTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

BIRTH-PLACE OF CAPT. JOSIAH POWERS
AND SITE OF THE GARRISON HOUSE. Extracts
from Mr. Joseph A. Harwood's letter of Aug.
6, 1914: "This view shows the site of the
Powers Garrison House. The site as nearly
as we can make out (which is probably
pretty correct) is in the foreground in front
and a little to the right of the dead tree,
which shows in the picture. This view was
taken facing about north east."

"This is the spot to which tradition
points most strongly as the site of a fort
built by the Indians of Nashobah for protec-
tion against hostile tribes. It is a hillside
facing Fort Pond, which would be to the
right of the picture." This is also the site
of the settlement of Walter Powers the
ancestor of the Neshobe line of the Powers
family in America.

SPECTACLE POND, LONG POND, NAGOG POND. On August 1, 1914, the town of Littleton, Mass., celebrated its two-hundredth anniversary of its incorporation.

The Littleton Improvement Society issued a booklet of 16 pages giving numerous first class views of the town. By the kind permission of that society, through the influence of Harry W. Knights and Joseph A. Harwood of that town I have been allowed to insert this half-tone cut in our work. The Natick word *Nashobah* means between ponds, or between waters, and has its derivation in this locality, however variously the word may be spelled. It was here that the Rev. John Elliot, had one of his praying bands of Indians located, and the town of Nashobah chartered for their exclusive residence May 14, 1654. The word Nagog means "Corner," having reference to the corner of the town on that pond. It was from this very locality that Capt. Josiah Powers brought the name of Neshobe up into the Green Mountains.

TRADITIONAL SITE OF THE INDIAN FORT AND WELL NEAR FORT POND IN NASHOBAH PLANTATION. The hollow is the traditional site of the well

where the occupants of the fort obtained their water. The hollow has been stoned up in early times which makes it very probable that it was the veritable site of the well.

OLD BURYING GROUND IN LITTLETON, MASS., BEARING A CROP OF CORN IN 1914.

"Here Walter Powers and other early settlers of Littleton were buried. As you see, it is now [1914] in a corn field. It extended from the foreground to the woods, or nearly there. No stone has been standing within the memory of any one living, but the Littleton Historical Society has one or two of the stones, found in neighboring walls, one of them is probably that of Walter Powers, marked W P FY 19, 1708. This spot is nearly or quite half a mile from the Garrison House. The view was taken facing east."

COAT-OF-ARMS OF NESHOBIE ISLAND. This plate is taken from the second volume of the proceedings of the Rutland County Historical Society. It was adopted by that society August 6, 1884, and is thus described:

Dexter chief, ermine; sinister base, argent. On ermine an annulet gules, in which is Neshobe Island vert, above waves azure.

On argent is a deer purpure, at gaze, between a flock of wild geese or, and a brace of arrow-heads gules.

On a bend sinister sable, a fish or, natant between a pond-lily bud argent, and the American eagle or, perching.

Crest: Indian gules, paddling a birchen canoe or, between two drakes vert, natant, on waves azure.

Motto: "*BUT NESHOBE DIETH NEVER.*"

LAKE BOMBAZON—NESHOBE ISLAND—BIRCH POINT, IN CASTLETON, VERMONT. This view was taken about 1885, looking southwest. Neshobe Island appears in the back ground, but it is much nearer the eastern shore of the lake than to the western. Birch Point appears on the left-hand. It was on this point that the Rutland County Historical Society conferred the name of Neshobe on the island, on July 4, 1881, in memory of the Indian scout in Thompson's novel, *The Green Mountain Boys*. Thompson picked up the discarded name of Neshobe for his scout, that the town of Brandon had borne for twenty-three years, and had been nearly forgotten by the inhabitants of Rutland county at the time the novel was written.



OLD BURYING GROUND IN LITTLETON, MASS.,
BEARING A CROP OF CORN IN 1914



SCREW-DRIVER TO A FLINT-LOCK GUN. This cut is the exact size of the implement, such as was in use in the Revolutionary war. This was the property of Col. Noah Lee of Castleton, Vt., one of the very first settlers of that town, and an officer in the Revolutionary war, a veritable Green Mountain Boy. He was the commanding officer of the squad of soldiers who went from Castleton to White Hall to capture that town in 1775, mentioned in Thompson's novel. This Revolutionary relic was obtained by Mr. S. H. Langdon of Castleton at the auction sale of Col. Lee's effects, after his death, and was presented to the author of this book about 1883, by Mr. Langdon.

Screw-Driver Pond, just a few rods west of lake Bombazon in Castleton, was so named from its resemblance to that implement. The following is a description of it given by Hon. Henry Hall of Rutland, author of several Vermont books:

"The screw-driver is a three armed implement of steel, one arm is for turning screws, another is a hammer for clipping the flint to a sharp edge—the third is pointed to keep the priming hole cleared."

Screw-Driver Pond was so named from its shape resembling the shape of the implement in the illustration. The name grew into use.

Major Copeland did not fancy the term then in use when he settled in the vicinity so he gave it the name of Glen Lake, and as no one cared what it was called, it came into general use, and supplanted Screw-Driver Pond.

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Publications.**

Archives of Science and Transactions of the Orleans County Historical Society, 1870-1874. 8vo. Paper. pp. 256. Price \$2.50

Proceedings, 1887 to November 1889; paper cover, 89 pages. This volume contains Judge Stewart's history of the kidnapping of Charles Allen Thorndike Rice in 1860, with an account of his hiding with his mother, from his father and his detective police, in the town of Derby; and of their successful escape to Europe after about one month's wonderful and almost unendurable hardships. This boy was fitted for college and graduated at Oxford; after which he returned to America and was editor and proprietor of the North American Review. Only a few copies issued. Price \$2.50

Proceedings from August, 1890, to September, 1891, paper cover, 30 pages.

Price 50 cents.

Proceedings; August 27, 1892, paper cover, 20 pages. Price 50 cents.

Proceedings, 1902-3, paper cover, plate, 25 pages. Price 50 cents.

Proceedings, 1904-5-6, paper cover, plate, 36 pages. Price 50 cents.

Proceedings, 1907-8, paper cover, 46 pages. Price 50 cents.

Proceedings, 1909-10, paper cover, 92 pages; several full-page illustrations; devoted largely to the centennial celebration of Runaway Pond of Glover, Vt. Besides the centennial address of the Hon. F. W. Baldwin, it contains the semi-centennial address of the Rev. Pliny H. White.

Price \$1.00.

Proceedings, 1911-12, on extra fine paper. Contents: Report of the annual meeting August, 1911; further account, by His Excellency, Ex-Gov. Josiah Grout, of the kidnapping of Charles Allen Thorndike Rice in 1860, and of the unsuccessful search for the boy in Derby, Vt., by the father and his skilled detectives, and Report of the annual meeting of the Historical Society in August, 1912. Illustrated. Limited edition. Price \$1.00.

Annis Genealogy. By John McNab Currier, M. D. 8vo. Paper. 74 pages. 1909. On heavy Old Stratford paper. Price \$2.00.

Only 250 copies issued. This work gives the first three generations of the Annis Family in America, and will be found useful in tracing the Family history of any one bearing that name. The descendants of David Annis of Bath, N. H., who died in that town August 18, 1824, are brought down, quite extensively, to the present time (1909).

Genealogy of Richard Currier of Salisbury and Amesbury, Mass., in 1640, including the first three generations and several lines of his descendants down to the present time (1910). By Harvey L. Currier. Also *Ezra Currier of Bath, N. H., and his descendants down to the present time (1910), by John M. Currier.* On Old Stratford paper: 6½ x 9½ x 1½. Illustrated. Uncut. Price, bound in stiff covers, \$4.00. This work will have an increasing value because of the treatment of the early generations. Only 250 copies were issued.

**Publications of the Rutland County
Historical Society.**

Proceedings of the Rutland County Historical Society, Vol. 1, 1881, 8vo. Paper. pp. 191.

Proceedings of the Rutland County Historical Society. Vol. 2. From 1882 to 1887. Paper. Containing vast amount of local history. Price \$2.00.

Log Book of Timothy Boardman kept on board a privateer in 1778. Also biographical sketch of the author. Albany, 1885, 4to. pp. 88. Paper. After Mr. Boardman left privateering he settled in Rutland County, Vermont, where he spent the remainder of his life. Price \$3.00.

Memorial Exercises in Castleton, Vt., in 1881. Contains vast amount of historical matter by various old soldiers. pp. 66. Paper. Price 75 cents.

History of the Christening the Island of Neshobe in Lake Bombazon, by the Rutland County Historical Society, July 4, 1881. Compiled by John M. Currier, M. D., Secretary. It is rare to find more local history crowded in 49 pages than in this rare book. Only a few copies were issued, and was never advertised. Paper. pp. 49.

Price \$1.00.

Miscellaneous.

Red-Book of Neshobe, pp. 16. *Violet Book of Neshobe*, pp. 24. *Orange-Book of Neshobe*, pp. 12. *Blue-Book of Neshobe*, pp. 12. Printed in colored inks. By the Owls of Neshobe Island, and Eagles of Cedar Mountain, Castleton, Vt. These books were issued to familiarize the name of Neshobe on the Island in Lake Bombazon. Price \$1.50.

Song of Hubbardton Raid. This gives an account of the raid of the citizens of Hubbardton, Vt., on Castleton Medical College for the recovery of the stolen body of Mrs. Churchill, 1880, pp. 36. Paper. Price 50 cents.

History of Bird's Mountain Masonic Monument 2500 feet above the Level of the Sea. Compiled by John M. Currier, M. D. Paper. pp. 82. Albany, N. Y., 1887. Plate. Uncut. Only one copy issued for each brick in the Monument. This Monument was struck by lightning and injured, a few years after its erection. This was a unique structure, and the book will become rare some day. Price \$1.00.

History of Freemasonry in Newport, Vermont, for One-Fourth Century. Compiled by John M. Currier, M. D., 32°, Newport, Vermont. Published by Memphremagog Lodge 1890. Paper. pp. 154. Price \$2.50.

John P. Phair. A complete history of Vermont's Celebrated Murder Case, 1879. Paper. 120 pages. Price 75 cents.

Life and Exploits of the Noted Criminal, Bristol Bill. This is the man who attempted the life of Hon. Bliss N. Davis, in Caladonia County Court in June 1850, when on trial.

A Memorial of the Town of Hamstead, N. H. By Harriet E. Noyes. Cloth. 468 pages. Price \$5.00.

History of Acworth, N. H. Edited by Rev. J. L. Merrill, Acworth, 1869. Cloth. 306 pages.

Half-Tone Plate of the "Mountain Maid," the First Steamer on Lake Memphremagog. Price 25 cents.

How Neshobe Came Up into The Green Mountains. Also *The Discovery of Lake Bombazon by Samuel de Champlain*. Compiled by John Mc-

Nab Currier, M. D., 1914, Newport, Vermont. Only 75 copies issued. Price of the first 25 copies, \$1.00 each; of the second 25 copies, \$1.25 each; of the third 25 copies, \$1.50 each. Only one copy will be sold to the same person. Printed on fine paper, uncut, with seven half-tone illustrations.

The Salvation Soldiers Song Book. Compiled by William Booth, General of the Army. This is an early copy good as new. Price 75 cents.

There are three essential things necessary in running a Salvation Army—A bass drum to collect the rabble; a tambourine to collect the dimes in, they are too lazy to work; and a mud-hole to kneel in to show their pretended humility, but really love of notoriety.

The New New-England Primer. By a citizen of Lake Bridge, Vermont, 1913. Paper. 25 pages. Newport, Vermont. Only five copies printed for each state in the Union. Price \$1.00.

"In the new religion there will be no deification of remarkable human beings."—*Eliot's New Bible*.

None of John Cotton's "spiritual milk for babes" has been made use of in the production of this treatise, but all the light that Tyndall, Darwin, Huxley and Eliot could throw upon the subjects have been made available for their elucidation.

The following Recommendations of this Primer have been received:

Hon. Horace W. Bailey, United States Marshall for the District of Vermont.

On April 3, 1913 Mr. Bailey writes: "The sample of the 'New New-England Primer' has whetted my appetite for the full edition and I shall look forward to its receipt with a great deal of pleasure; it may be a strong dose for a rank Methodist but I promise you in advance that I can stand it."

On September 23, 1913 Mr. Bailey further writes: "The copy of The New New-England Primer received

III.

and read twice. The old New England Primer was designed as food for children but the New New-England Primer is food for grown people, giants, etc. Thank you sincerely."

Rev. R. N. Joscelyn of the Methodist Church at Newport, Vermont, 1913-1914.

On September 28, 1913 Mr. Joscelyn delivered an evening sermon on "The Agnostic, and his place among the World's activities." The subject was announced previously in his weekly four-page program, in which were printed the principle headings of his sermon. In this sermon The New New-England Primer received a scorching criticism, and his hearers were advised against reading it. Agnosticism also received a share of his anathemas, with cautions not to be too credulous in receiving discoveries in science.

Rev. Robert Nelson Joscelyn was born in the City of New York, May 26, 1864. He was the son of William Jewet Joscelyn. He is the best educated clergyman that has preached in the Methodist Church in Newport since its erection in 1869. He is a graduate of the New York University in 1884. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on him in 1886 by Columbia University. He is also a graduate of Columbia Law School in 1886. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on him by Hamline University in 1887. He graduated from the Minnesota School of Theology in 1888. Later the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him.

Mr. Joscelyn founded the *Albert Lea Evening Tribune* in Southern

Minnesota in 1898, which he conducted two years. It is still in a prosperous condition.

He was Chaplain of the State Senate of Minnesota two terms, 1899-1904.

Mr. Joscelyn is a ready and practical speaker, and a popular lecturer. It was largely, if not wholly, through his influence and architectural taste, assisted by Mr. E. D. Clifford's mechanical skill, that the Methodist Church in Newport, Vt., in 1914, was remodeled and made one of the handsomest churches in Vermont, at a cost certainly not much less than \$12,000. Mr. Joscelyn certainly has a remarkable architectural taste, and ability in that direction. The following record shows his untiring zeal in that form of church work: In 1886-87 he built a church in Ashby, Minn., at a cost of \$1700. In 1890 repaired a church at Beaver Falls, Minn., at a cost of \$250. In 1892 he built the Methodist Episcopal Church at Morton, Minn., at a cost of \$5500. In 1894 raised the money and helped build a church in Wells, Minn., at a cost of \$15,000. In 1896 built the church in St. Peters, Minn., costing \$14,000. Also at same place built the janitor's house costing \$15,000. In 1899 put in a new heating plant in the church and parsonage in Albert Lea, Minn., costing \$300. In 1904 put in a new foundation under the church at Gardiner, Me., and decorated the Vestry, costing \$700. In 1908 rebuilt and decorated the church at Biddeford, Me., at a cost of \$3000. His works show him to be a man of untiring energy, a lover of the beautiful and picturesque, and a persistent faithful laborer in his chosen profession.

IV.

Edward A. Brown, one of the trustees of the Amesbury Public Library at Amesbury, Mass., acknowledges the receipt of a copy of the New New-England Primer, on December 15, 1913 in the following language: "Your letter enclosing the New New-England Primer graciously received, and accept our thanks. This revised edition accords with my views on theological matters."

Hon. Riley E. Wright of Baltimore, Md., on January 24, 1914, writes: "I received the New New-England Primer 'by a citizen of Newport, Vt.,' and enjoyed it very much. I don't know (*agnoeo*) expresses all as you have well elucidated. He who says he 'don't know' in the realms of the unknown is by the world liable to be written down as worse than the heathen—an atheist, i. e. one who has light and refuses to follow it. So brave is the man who dealing with matters of blind faith bravely says "I do not know" even if it be at the cost of being declared an agnostic, or untruthfully an atheist.

In the Primer you have conclusively shown, I think, that when the tangible evidence is wanting to support creed and dogma the honest man is left to no other course than to stand still till the light is turned on rather than to blindly grope in the dark. He can only take the honest, safe stand "I do not know."

In the Primer, allow me to say, you have trenchantly, yet conservatively, and ably treated the subject in hand. And he who is so fortunate as to have a copy of the New New-England Primer has in a condensed form much food for thought

and reflection; and more he is told "to look before he leaps," a safe rule of action on earth, and why then not a salutary one to govern us in matters of religious faith?

Yes your reasoning is sound, Doctor. I particularly enjoyed your statement of the once popular conception of *Hell*. Whether true or not you were apparently a safe distance away from it about the 13th and 14th of this month."

[This last remark refers to the extreme cold days of January 13 and 14, 1914. On the 13th the temperature was not higher than 24 degrees below zero all day, and was much lower than that on the previous and following nights. At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 14th the temperature was 28 degrees below zero on Third Street in Newport.—J. M.C.]

Extract from a letter written February 11, 1914, by the Rev. A. A. Murch, of Warsaw, N. Y., rector of the Episcopal Church at that place; and previously six years rector of the Episcopal Church at Newport, Vt.

"In regard to the [New New-England] Primer; it is nicely gotten up; it is terse and to the point; and everything is clearly expressed. It is also eminently courteous and fair. As far as I know it states the agnostic position fairly, while it does not at all misrepresent the position of the religionist, nor of the infidel. The whole thing is there in short compass. One can very easily read it in a little while, while a longer treatise would probably be thrown aside unread—put off till a more convenient season, never to be taken up again. And so it would stand

many chances of being misrepresented by those who would *guess* what was in it, and who would put upon the book the criticisms perhaps applicable to the position of agnostic, and those criticisms might perhaps be unfair to the position also, as well as to the work. My criticism of the agnostic position is something like this: I think that the agnostic requires evidence in regard to things in regard to which evidence is impossible. The agnostic says that the religionist imagines things, and states them for facts about which he *is sure*. Of course when he does this he goes beyond what seems right and straight to minds like ours. But it is only his way of putting it, the way in which he looks at it, the way that seems to him to be proper and correct. If you and I believed the things which he believes, or thinks that he believes, we would say, not that we *are* sure about them, but that we *feel* sure. His feelings are so strong that it gives him a feeling of certainty, and he says that he *is* certain, that he knows, that there can be no possible doubt about it, and that it is absurd and even wicked not to believe it, and even not to *be* as sure of it as he is. He is a person of a different temperament from us. He may mean all right. Many of these things which he is so sure about are probably not at all true, just imaginings, assumptions, folklore, as you have said. When one gets to particularizing about unseen things, Heaven and hell, etc., etc., he is on very dangerous ground. He is assuming to give definite knowledge in regard to things as to which definite knowledge is not

possible for men, and in regard to which definite knowledge is not necessary or even desirable."

Hon. Charles A. Prouty, Director of Valuation in the Interstate Commerce Commission, on July 30, 1914, speaking of the New New-England Primer, said: "This is the best definition of a philosopher I have seen for many years."

Mr. Joseph A. Harwood of Littleton, Mass., in a letter of September 6, 1914, says:

"I read the New New-England Primer with much interest, and turned it over to my mother to read. Everything in it is true. I had never understood, or thought out, the distinction between an agnostic and an infidel, and I am particularly glad to have that stated so clearly. The word agnostic it seems to me, has lost its stigma, or is fast losing it, among all people in New England, at least in my part of it. The Unitarian Church has long stood for the acceptance of truth from every source, let it bring what it will, and other churches are fast coming toward it. Here in Kentucky they are much more conservative.* It seems to me the time is coming when a good agnostic can be accepted as a good Christian too, meaning by Christian, not one who holds particular theories as to the birth and nature of Christ but one who aims to live in accordance with the principles which Christ himself practiced."

*Stopping temporarily at Ashland, Ky., Mr. Harwood writes from there.

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